***Date* :** Friday, July 5, 1850

***Time* :** 4:00PM Local

***Location* :** Sandford – Manchester – Enniskillen, York – Durham Counties

***F-Rating* :** F3 ‘A’

***Track Length* :** ~73km “at least 45mi”

***Max Width* :** ~1.6km (average=500m)

***Direction* :** 287° (WNW-ESE)

***Shape* :** “One of those dreadful storms which are the counterpart of the tornadoes of the West Indies. The body of water in a sawmill dam raised from its bed. A part of a cloud dropped, “form in a huge waterspout at the head of Lake Scugog…. (looked like) the black smoke emitted from the funnel of a steamboat burning pine or pitch. This waterspout took up water for about 12 minutes…then a vivid flash of lightning was seen from the spout which caused an explosion…We could now see it coming towards us, tearing with it everything in its course…The storm did not travel as quick as might have been expected, for it did not pursue a straight course – it was a whirlwind.”

***Injuries* :** 4

***Deaths* :** 3, possibly 4 (many other animal deaths)

***Damage Cost* :** “Houses, barns, outbuildings demolished or very badly damaged. Debris carried up to 10 miles. In one case the second storey of a house along with barrels of pork, flour, clothing, bedding, etc. lifted off, and rafters were found ¾ mile away driven half way through a stump. Animals blown against trees and fences and killed. Some cattle belonging to Mr. Ironson blown into a pond and drowned. His sawmill, house and barns over were blown to pieces. Sawlogs 4 to 5ft in diameter and too big to be sawn were carried endwise for several rods. A potash kettle on his property was carried several rods and laid bottom upwards, covering a lamb which was freed and found unhurt. Two people (his oldest son, and a relative by marriage) were killed in the collapse of the Ironson home.”

“A reporter from Scott township climbed a hill and found the forest timber completely destroyed in both directions as far as the eye could see.”

Major farm damage throughout the area with many buildings destroyed or carried away, entire crops ruined. Enormous trees thrown and in some cases lofted high in the air, swaths of bushland reduced to a splintered mess of toppled limbs. Many instances of objects becoming airborne and hurled violently through the air.

***Notes* :** Known as the “Lake Scugog Tornado” - a long-tracking large and violent tornado. Up to approximately 1 mile wide in some areas. Somewhat sinusoidal path through eastern York County and most of Durham Region (known as Ontario County at the time) where the towns of Manchester near Port Perry, and Enniskillen and nearby Hayden were suffered much damage, injury and death.

The storm was said to have continued on to the SE to as far away as Albany, New York, a distance of 500km.

***Photos/Videos* :** N/A